

SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES STONELICK WILLIAMS CORNER COVERED BRIDGE

Clermont County Transportation Improvement District

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves rehabilitation/repair of the Stonelick Creek Covered Bridge located 0.75 miles north of SR 50 on Stonelick Williams Corner Road in Clermont County, Ohio. Proposed improvements generally consist of wood preservation and structural repairs, including replacement of the flooring, roof and bearings. This bridge structure, built in 1878, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Rehabilitation and repair is being funded in part by the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program (NHCBP). Proposed rehabilitation/repair work will follow guidelines outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and FHWA's Covered Bridge Manual (Publication No. FHWA-HRT-04-098). Proposed improvements will occur within existing right-of-way, although some temporary right-of-way for staging activities may be required during construction (no new excavation anticipated).

Scope and Extent of Consultant Services

The Consultant shall conduct the appropriate environmental studies required to obtain environmental clearance for the project in accordance with Ohio Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration environmental (NEPA) guidelines. Specifically, the environmental work will be conducted according to ODOT's Locally Administered Transportation Projects Manual of Procedures (LPA), and will include two main tasks: 1) preparation of a Level 1 Categorical Exclusion document and related studies, and 2) cultural resources documentation for Section 106 review (see below for description of these tasks).

TASK DESCRIPTIONS

1.0. Level 1 Categorical Exclusion (CE) Report

A Level 1 CE is the appropriate level of environmental documentation for this project since proposed improvements will primarily occur within existing right-of-way (some temporary right-of-way may be required during construction) and minor environmental impacts are anticipated. Following ODOT requirements, the CE document involves preparation of the following reports for ODOT and resource agency review and approval:

- 1.1. Ecological Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) package*** (required for project resource agency coordination and clearance) – This task includes a field review of the project for occurrence of ecological features and potential endangered species habitat (including potential habitat for Indiana bat and running buffalo clover) and findings will be presented in an Ecological Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) package, which will be submitted to ODOT and coordinated with resource agencies (ODNR, USFWS, OEPA) for review and approval. Overall, the Ecological MOA includes information and the mapping of known resources in the general vicinity based on field visit and secondary source review, including review of National Wetland Inventory maps, USGS and soil survey mapping, known threatened and endangered species occurrences based on resource agency database records, and other natural features in the general project vicinity. Generally, for the MOA report,

maps are included that show the closest occurrence of ecological resources to the study area (even if the resources do not specifically occur in the study area) to provide information on ecological context and potential for impacts. Findings from the Ecological MOA will be incorporated into the project CE. Since the project has a limited scope and has minimal impact footprint, a formal ecological base study (i.e., a Level 1 or 2 survey report per ODOT definition) is not needed, and the Ecological MOA will fulfill resource agency coordination requirements for the project.

Exclusions:

An endangered species biological assessment is not included in this proposal, and is not expected to be required for this project. However, if determined necessary based on results of the MOA and agency coordination, additional work will be scoped at a later date as a contract modification.

Waterway permit preparation is also not included in this proposal, and is not expected to be required for this project at this time. However, if during design development it is determined that piers or other impacts below ordinary high water in Stonelick Creek are needed, then permit work will be scoped at a later date as a contract modification.

- 1.2. Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) Screening** (required for project hazardous materials coordination and clearance) – An environmental site assessment (hazardous materials) screening following ODOT guidelines will consist of a regulatory database review, visual site inspection, and review of available historical mapping and aerial photographs to identify potential hazardous materials concerns. The investigation will be documented in a screening report for ODOT review/approval that includes a summary of the secondary source review, and findings of the field inspection (ESA screening checklist forms). Findings from the ESA screening will be incorporated into the project CE.

Exclusions:

Further Phase I/II ESA work is not included in this proposal (not expected to be required at this time). If determined necessary based on the results of the ESA screening, this work will be scoped at a later date as a contract modification.

- 1.3. CE1 Document Preparation** - this task involves preparing text and exhibits for draft and final CE document submittals, and includes documenting information related to project purpose and need, the natural and social environment, public involvement, and incorporating information and approvals from the Ecological MOA, ESA Screening and cultural resources packages (see below). The CE will be prepared according to current ODOT CE guidelines for approval by ODOT District 8.

2.0. Section 106 Review

This project involves a National Register Historic Property, and Section 106 / Section 4(f) review by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) is needed to determine potential impacts to cultural resources. Assuming that the project will primarily occur within existing right-of-way, no new excavation is anticipated, and proposed improvements will follow historic bridge rehabilitation/repair guidelines provided by the Secretary of the Interior and FHWA per grant funding requirements, no adverse impacts to cultural resources are anticipated, and detailed cultural resources studies and coordination are not expected to be required for this project. As such, this scope includes as the appropriate level of cultural documentation, the preparation of a Cultural Resource Coordination Package which, following ODOT guidelines, includes information on the following: project description, purpose and need, project

location, aerial photo with approximate construction limits, photo inventory of the project area, and project plan sheets, as available. The Cultural Resources Package will be coordinated with ODOT and OHPO for cultural resources clearance, and findings will be included in the project CE.

Exclusions:

Further Phase I/II historic architecture or archaeological studies are not included in this proposal (not anticipated to be required). If further cultural studies are determined necessary based on ODOT/OHPO review or changes in the project impact footprint, additional work will be scoped at a later date as a contract modification.

ASSUMPTIONS

This proposal for environmental services is based on the following assumptions:

- Clermont County will provide the Consultant with project design files (electronic manuscript) and project background information to include in the reports and CE document, specifically project description, purpose and need information, public involvement information, and study area mapping, including parcel boundary and ownership information;
- The Consultant will support Clermont County-led public involvement activities by providing a study area exhibit and environmental summary or similar material, as appropriate;
- As necessary, Clermont County will conduct property owner notification prior to environmental field inspection work commencing; and
- This proposal excludes preparation of an endangered species biological assessment, waterway permits, detailed environmental site assessment (ESA) studies, and detailed cultural resource studies (these activities not expected to be required; see task descriptions above).

SCHEDULE

The Ecological MOA report, ESA Screening report, and Cultural Resources Coordination Package will be submitted to Clermont County within 60 days from date of authorization to proceed, assuming appropriate-level project design plans are available for field survey and inclusion in these reports.

It is expected that the draft CE 1 document would be submitted within 6-9 months from date of authorization, depending upon ODOT and agency reviews of the ecological, ESA, and cultural reports, since these approvals must be included in the CE.